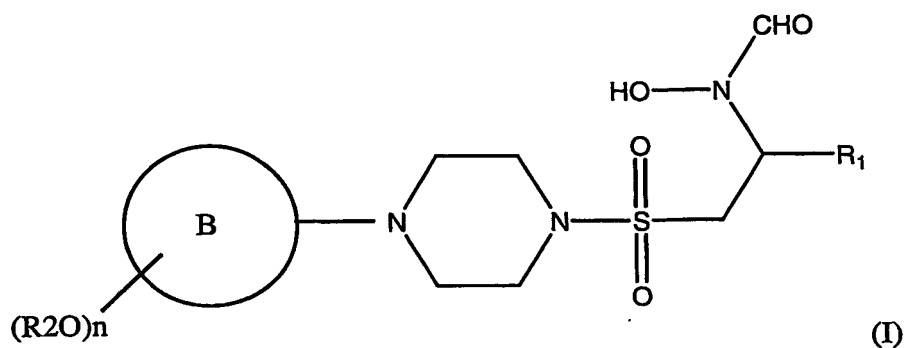


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CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

10 R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-

15 cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein B is monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms.

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3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R2 is a C1-6 alkyl group

25 substituted by one to five fluorine groups.

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5. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R2 is substituted by three or four fluorine groups.
6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group -CF₂CHCF₂.
- 5 7. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group -CH₂CF₃.
8. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein n is 1.
- 10 9. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R1 is an optionally substituted group selected from C1-4 alkyl, aryl having six ring atoms, a five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S or a C1-4 alkyl-heteroaryl group wherein the heteroaryl has up to six ring atoms and comprises one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O and S
- 15 10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different,
- 20 11. A compound according to claim 9 or 10 wherein R1 is unsubstituted.
12. A compound according to claim 9 or 10 wherein R1 is substituted by one or two
- 25 substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from C1-4 alkyl, halogen, CF₃ and CN.
13. A compound according to claim 12 wherein R1 is substituted by fluorine.
- 30 14. A compound according to claim 11 or claim 13 wherein R1 is tetrahydropyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH₂CH₂-, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH₂CH₂CH₂- or 5-F-2-pyrimidinyl-CH₂CH₂-.

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15. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₂ is C₁-6 alkyl, substituted by one to five fluorine groups; n is 1; ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl and R₁ is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C₁-4alkyl-
5 heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.
16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a
10 pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.
17. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 16 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt,
15 prodrug or solvate thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 15 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.
18. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 for use in therapy.
20
19. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by one or more metalloproteinase enzymes.
25
20. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by collagenase 3.
- 30 21. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease.

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22. Use according to claim 21, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

23. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or
5 solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of osteoarthritis.

24. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or
10 solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

25. A method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims
15 1 to 15.

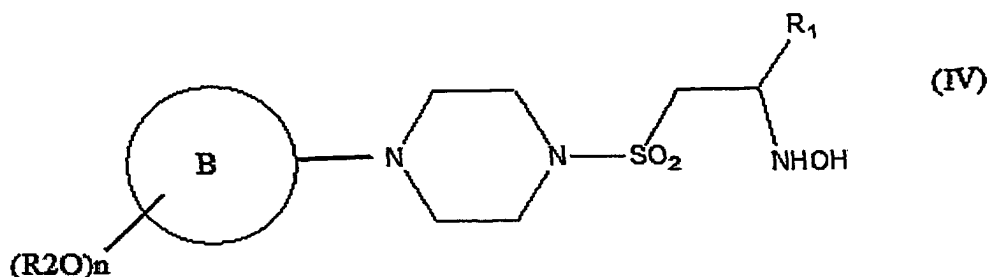
26. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1
20 to 15.

27. A method of treating an obstructive airways disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

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28. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, which comprises:
converting the appropriate hydroxyamino compound of the formula (IV)

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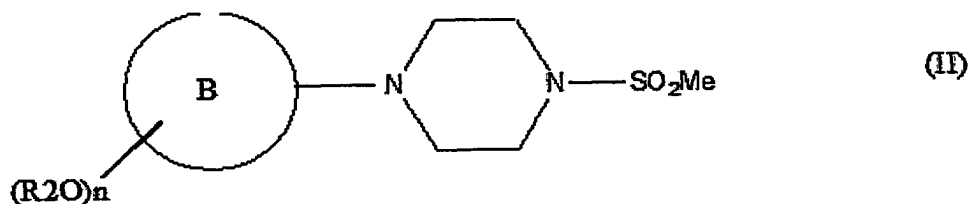
(wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I))

into a compound of formula (I) by formylation with an appropriate mixed anhydride;

and optionally thereafter carrying out one or more of the following:

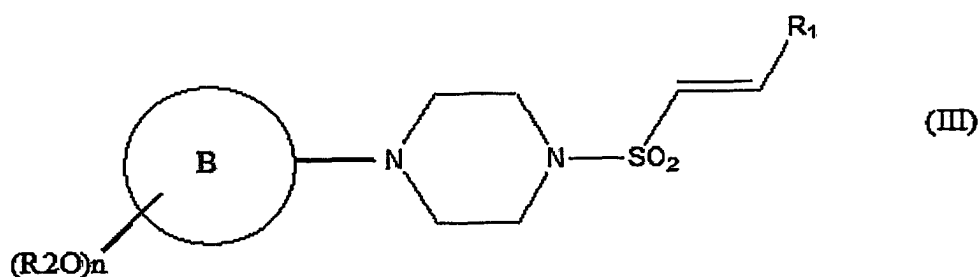
- 5 converting the compound obtained into a further compound according to the invention and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug or solvate of the compound.

29. A compound of formula (II)



- 10 wherein R2, n and ring B are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1.

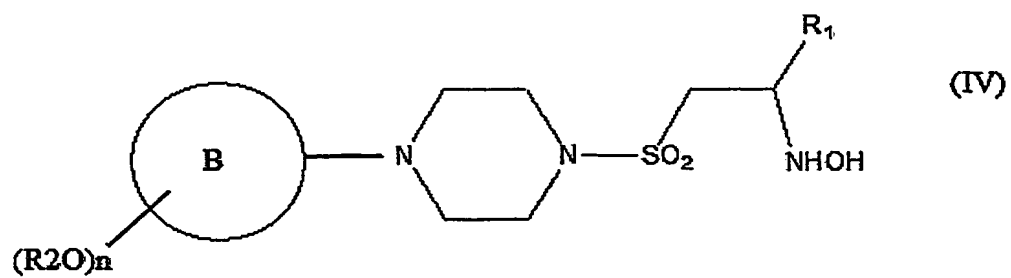
30. A compound of formula (III)



wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1.

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31. A compound of formula (IV)

wherein R₂, n, ring B and R₁ are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1.